



RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Serving Courts • Protecting Our Community • Changing Lives

MARK A. HAKE
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 5, 2018

Contact: Kevin Slusarski, Public Information Specialist
(951) 955-2830 or kslusarski@rivco.org

School safety is a priority for Riverside County: Collaborative *School Threat Assessment and Response* (STAR) Protocol has been updated and implemented

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Agencies in Riverside County’s justice, health, school and social-services systems have updated the protocol for preventing and responding to threats and violent acts involving schools because of nationwide increases in such incidents.

The Riverside County Probation Department, in collaboration with the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office, local law enforcement agencies, Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Riverside University Health System, local school districts and the Juvenile Court Judges, modified the School Threat Assessment and Response (STAR) Protocol. The protocol outlines the roles each agency plays in reporting, preventing and responding to multi-casualty school attacks, or threats to carry out such an attack.

“The STAR Protocol brings together educators, judicial partners, mental health professionals and law enforcement agencies to promote a safe learning environment for all youth in Riverside County,” stated Riverside County Chief Probation Officer Mark A. Hake.

While Riverside County schools have not experienced a major act of school violence, there have been instances in which students have threatened to carry out acts of violence, sometimes announcing their intent on social media sites. These threats have been discovered and appropriate action taken before they could be carried out. The STAR Protocol incorporates our ever-changing and evolving need to be responsive through technology.

Every youth in Riverside County deserves to attend school free from worries of violence; with the help of the community, including students, parents, teachers, mental health professionals and concerned citizens, these acts can be prevented or minimized. For more information on high-risk indicators, resources, or who to contact if you suspect an act of violence may be perpetrated on a school campus, please refer to the STAR Protocol or immediately contact your local law enforcement agency.

The STAR Protocol can be viewed at <http://www.probation.co.riverside.ca.us/pdf/STAR-Protocol.pdf>.

The original response protocol was developed in 1998 and was known as the *Kids With Guns Protocol*.

###